Five day week in the Post Offices

2624. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMU NICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post office in India observe six-day week as against the five-day week followed by other Central Government Departments;

(b) if so, the reasons for this discrepancy;

(c) whether it is proposed to extend five-day week to the post offices also and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any pressure from the All India Postal Workers Union for a demand in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MfNISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Post Offices are operative offices and continue to work on a six-day week basis to provide essential public utility services. The essential services extended through the post office is operational in Yiature. Five-day week routine has been adopted only for the civil administrative offices of the Central Government doing Secretariat type of work, without reduction in the total number of working hours as under six-day week working.

(c) No, Sir. In view of the position stated against (b) above, the question does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above the question does not arise.

Non-Payment of dues by telephone companies

2625. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of COM MUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether no charges are levied for local telephones in foreign countries;

(b) whether an amount of Rupees 796 crores is outstanding against certain telephone companies and they refuse to pay even the 20 per cent of the dues every year ; and